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DATE: May 2, 1979

CT: Field Inspection of Waste Oil Holding Pond and Disposal Areas Owned
by John P. Saad & Sons of Nashville, Tennessee

FROM: Hydrogeologist

TO: John E. Dickinson, Jr., Hazardous Waste Management Coordinator

*Joe
Rita
file*Background

At the request of Joe Rossman, Tennessee Division of Water Quality Control, a visit was made to Nashville on April 2 & 3, 1979, to investigate a reported problem with the improper storage and disposal of waste oils by John P. Saad & Sons, Waste Oil Reclaimers in Nashville. On April 2 I visited the office of the Division of Solid Waste Management to obtain background information on the waste oil problems. I discussed the situation with Dwight Hinch and Ruth Yates, and was informed that the problem involved a waste oil holding pond in Nashville and a dumping area in Rutherford County (see accompanying topographic maps). Ruth Yates stated that a tentative decision had been made on March 30, 1979, to require Saad & Sons to dispose of the waste oil sludge and the oil/water mixture in an approved incinerator or secured landfill. I also reviewed laboratory results of samples taken from the holding pond in Nashville, the dump area in Rutherford County, and a spring located east of the holding pond (see attached analyses). The results from these samples revealed the presence of several solvents; however, only the results from the spring samples were quantified. Although appreciable amounts of several solvents were found in the spring samples, it is difficult to attribute the contamination to the Saad Site since the spring has been reported to be contaminated for several years from the disposal of various solvents into a sink area on the L & N property located just west of the Saad Site (see accompanying topographic map). However, L & N is supposed to have discontinued this disposal operation about a year ago. I discussed the court case against Saad & Sons with Dan Crouse, and he informed me that the court had ordered Saad & Sons to clean up the holding pond in a manner approvable to the State. I asked him if I could obtain copies of information contained in state files concerning Saad & Sons, and he stated that I could not since the court had made some ruling on information concerning the case, but he recommended that I get in touch with the Attorney General's Office. I tried to get in touch with Lee Brekenridge but she was out of town. I talked with Joe Rossman and set up a site inspection for the next day. I finished reviewing the Solid Waste files and obtained background geologic and groundwater information for the Nashville site.

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On April 3 I met Joe Rossman of Water Quality Control and John Saad, Jr., at the John P. Saad & Sons Site on Trousdale Road in Nashville. Mr. Saad showed us around the storage and disposal facility and explained the basics of their operation. Presently the facility has seven above ground storage tanks in use along with three below ground storage tanks that are utilized as a decant system for separating oil/water mixtures. The waste oil holding pond is located in the southwestern corner of the site and is presently about 10 feet by 70 feet in size and containing approximately 1 to 1.5 feet of oily water and possibly 2 to 3 feet of oil sludge. This holding pond was originally somewhat larger and reported to be located in a "sink"; however, Saad & Sons have moved the sludge into the smaller area and evidently covered the "sink" with soil and concrete debris. An undetermined thickness of silty clay was observed in the vicinity of the pond with no bedrock outcrops being observed on the site. No water or oil waste was observed draining from the site; however, the pond was overflowing slightly at one corner.

After inspecting the Nashville Site, we visited a site in Rutherford County owned by Saad & Sons where random dumping of waste oils has occurred. John Saad, Jr., reported that his company had no knowledge of who had been dumping at the site; however, Joe Rossman commented that the State was of the opinion that employees of Saad & Sons were responsible. The site is characterized by gentle to moderate slopes and limestone bedrock cropping out over the vast majority of the site. Scattered areas across the site do have a thin veneer of silty clay soils. There are about five separate areas on the site where waste oil has been dumped. The oil was evidently discharged from tanker trucks and allowed to flow through shallow drainage ways and eventually enter the underlying bedrock via joints, fractures, or sinks. In one drainage way the oil flowed approximately 400 to 500 feet before entering a sink area. From oil stains on trees and vegetation in the drainage way, the oil is estimated to have been 1 to 1.5 feet deep at one time. At the present time, there is an oil coating along the bottoms of drainage ways with some accumulations of oil and water in localized depressions. Employees of Saad & Sons are presently attempting to clean up the site; however, little progress had been made at the time of inspection. Following the site inspection, Joe Rossman took water samples from two domestic wells (James Smith & Elizabeth Harding) located just west of the site which Rossman reports to have shown detectable quantities of some solvents. An additional sample for background comparison was taken from a domestic well (Betty Francis) located about a mile west of the site.

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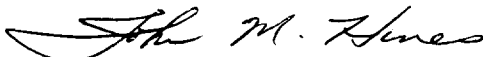
Following the inspections, I called Lee Brekenridge in the Attorney Generals Office and asked if I could obtain a copy of information contained in Solid Waste and Water Quality Control files. She said that all the information in State files was available to anyone; however, information provided by Saad & Sons following the court case concerning their clients and wastes could not be made available due to a court ruling.

Summary

A trip was made to Nashville, Tennessee, to investigate reported problems with the storage and disposal of waste oils by John P. Saad & Sones Waste Oil Reclaimers. A small problem was found to exist with a waste oil holding pond off Trousdale Road in Nashville, with a larger problem observed at a site owned by Saad & Sons in Rutherford County as a result of random dumping of waste oils. Saad & Sons are presently under a court order to cleanup operations at the Rutherford County Site. Samples from domestic wells in the vicinity of the Rutherford County Site were also taken for analysis by the Division of Water Quality Control.

Action

Sites are in the process of being cleaned up. This office should continue to provide technical assistance during cleanup as requested by the State.



John M. Hines